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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
30 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

State Dept review  
completed

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 93  
(as of 0630 EST)

DIA review completed

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are  
Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

1. Quiet prevailed on both fronts during the  
night and early morning. Israeli aircraft began  
their defensive fighter patrols and reconnaissance  
flights at dawn.

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PRISONERS OF WAR

10. Egypt today will provide the International Red Cross (IRC) with a list of Israeli prisoners it holds, according to the authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahram. Cairo on 16 October released the names of 46 Israeli prisoners and has allowed Red Cross delegates to visit a few severely wounded prisoners. According to a Red Cross spokesman in Geneva, Lebanon has provided the names of two Israeli prisoners. Syria, however, has not released the names of any Israelis it holds.

11. According to a USUN Mission cable, Egypt had hoped to pressure Israel into agreeing to relief measures for the Egyptian Third Army by withholding the list of Israeli prisoners. The tactic backfired, however, with Tel Aviv insisting it would not allow evacuation of Third Army wounded unless a list of Israeli prisoners was forthcoming.

12. Cairo's decision should relieve some of the steadily increasing domestic pressure on the Israeli government over the issue and stem some of the criticism of it for having bowed to US pressure and agreeing to a cease-fire without having obtained a

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settlement of the prisoner of war question. The Israeli Knesset will hold a special debate today on the prisoner question at the request of the conservative opposition bloc. Defense Minister Dayan is slated to speak.

#### UNITED NATIONS

13. Secretary-General Waldheim, as a result of discussions held during an informal Security Council meeting on 27 October, has instructed UNEF commander General Siilasvuo immediately to request the commander of the Israeli Armed Forces to return his troops to their 22 October positions, according to a sensitive USUN Mission cable. The first Security Council ceasefire resolution had called for a cessation of hostilities on that date.

#### MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS FORMAT

14. According to a sensitive USUN Mission cable, a Syrian official volunteered to a mission officer that Syria would be happy to accept the following Middle East peace negotiations format:

- a peace conference which could be held anywhere except New York, possibly in Geneva or Istanbul. Negotiations should be under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General who would, however, be a figurehead only;
- conference members would include Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, the permanent Security Council members plus some non-aligned states, possibly one representative each from Latin America, Africa, and Asia;
- the US and the USSR would be the real intermediaries between Israel on the one hand and Syria, Egypt and Jordan on the other, with other states participating to satisfy "stature" requirements.

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15. The Syrian did not mention Palestinian participation in any way and cautions that it has no way of knowing how closely the Syrian's views may reflect thinking in Damascus.

### OIL

16. The Dutch are coming under increasing Arab pressure and reprisals for their pro-Israeli stance during the latest Arab-Israeli war. Libya today announced a total ban on oil shipments to the Netherlands, citing the unsatisfactory Dutch response to Tripoli's 19 October request for an explanation for the "hostile" Dutch attitude toward the Arab cause in the war. The Libyans added that any country which re-exports Libyan oil to Holland will face a similar ban.

17. Saudi Arabia has also threatened The Hague with a total oil embargo unless the government agrees to issue a statement (1) denouncing Israeli aggression, (2) supporting the Palestinian's right to self-determination and (3) calling for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories. According to the US Embassy at The Hague, the Dutch response was low key and did not directly answer the Saudi demarche. Holland is an important oil processing and distribution center for western Europe and an oil embargo could have far-reaching effects.

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19. According to a Tokyo newspaper, Kuwait has ordered the Kuwait Oil Company, jointly owned by British

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Petroleum and Gulf Oil, to reduce crude oil production by 30 percent from the September level. Kuwait had earlier ordered a 10 percent cutback.

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